



*Sutter Medical Center
of Santa Rosa*

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A Sutter Health
Affiliate

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Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Health Policy and Planning Department
1600 9th Street, Room 350
ATTN: Andy Zach
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Zach:

Thank you for the OSHPD Acute MI Mortality Data for the State of California. The endeavor required a tremendous amount of effort.

Our hospital was not an outlier, which is reassuring. But we would like to be outstanding with a death rate indicating exceptional performance. Therefore, Sutter Medical Center of Santa Rosa instituted a task force in 1994 to look at thrombolytic medication administration. We elected to participate in the National registry on AMI (NRMI) study for benchmarking. Our door to drug time has greatly improved to an average of less than 30 minutes. The task force expanded to include parameters for inpatient evaluation and treatment of AMI in 1996. Sutter Medical Center of Santa Rosa will continue to evaluate and improve AMI care until we are listed as having outstanding results in the OSHPD report.

I do have a couple of comments about the relevance of this data to individual hospitals in guiding performance improvement.

It is now 1997, almost 1998. The data covers 1991 - 1993. In healthcare today there is a need for more current data so that results could be distributed in a more timely fashion to actually be helpful in guiding clinical improvement activities.

I must say the data from NRMI is much more helpful in guiding our efforts. I do realize that OSHPD is collecting screening parameters in a large number of general indicators much different than the very focused NRMI study looking only at AMI performance. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Cliff Coates
Chief Executive Officer
CC:rs

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